

# CQ Chatter

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Wood County Amateur Radio Club

JANUARY 2000

P. O. Box 534, Bowling Green, OH 43402

<http://bravais.bgsu.edu/~boughton/wcarc.html>

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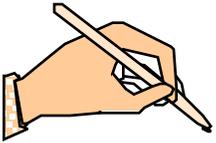
Secretary-AA8XS, John Lager

Vice President-WB8NQW, Bob Willman

Treasurer-N1RB, Bob Boughton

## A Note from the Editor

Happy New Year to all members of the WCARC. As usual, it's time to make a few resolutions. My first one is to keep this column short (applause, applause). In a more serious vein, it's very apparent that our membership rolls are slowly but steadily declining. What are we going to do about it? The "Radiohead" article by John Hansen that is concluded this month claims that it's all a part of a normal process whereby the "communicators" have left the hobby for more efficient means of communication. He is probably correct in his assumption, but I think it's a mistake to discount other disincentives for any new ham to stay active. Are the members of the club that he might join friendly and helpful, or do they ignore him or her? Are the programs provided by the club interesting and instructive? I believe that when we answer these questions about our own club we just might find some reasons. ■



## The International Beacon Network-Is the Band Open?

The Northern California DX Foundation constructed and operates a worldwide network of hf radio beacons on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, and 28.200 MHz. These beacons help both amateur and commercial hf radio users assess the current condition of the ionosphere. The entire system is designed, built and operated by volunteers at no cost except for the actual price of hardware components, shipping costs, etc.

In principle, one can simply listen on the beacon frequencies and copy the CW call signs of the various beacons to figure out where the band is open, but in practice, not every ham operator can copy calls at twenty-two words per minute and some beacons may be heard at too low a signal strength to catch the call. Because the beacons transmit at known times, it is easy to know which beacon one is hearing without actually copying the CW call sign. Since the beacons are running one hundred watts to

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**WCARC Weekly Net:  
Tuesdays at 2130  
147.18 & 444.475 MHz**

**Club Banquet:  
Monday, January 10th  
Location: The Forks  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Social Hour: 6:30 pm**

## You're Invited

The Club's annual banquet and election of officers will be held this year on Monday, January 10, at 6:30 pm (dinner served at 7:00 pm). The location is the same as last year---at The Forks in Pemberville. The tasty menu that will be served up includes:

- baked Swiss steak
- baked chicken
- mashed potatoes and gravy
- vegetables of the day
- beverages
- pie for dessert

The cost is \$10.00, with the balance being picked up by the Club Treasury. You can pay at the event. We do need to have an accurate count, so please make reservations with Bob, N1RB, at (419) 354-1811. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, January 4th at net time. The election of new officers for the year 2000 will also take place in the usual formal atmosphere. I hope we'll see you there! ■

**Have You Renewed  
Your Membership  
Yet???**

## January Contests

The full contest line-up for the month of January includes the following:

Jan 1	0000-2359 UTC ARRL Straight Key Nt.	160 to 10m CW
Jan 15-16	2200 to 2200 UTC Japan Int'l DX 'test	160 to 40m CW
Jan 15-16	1800 to 0600 UTC North Amer. QSO party	160 to 10m CW
Jan 16	0000 to 2359 UTC Hungarian DX 'test	160 to 10m CW
Jan 22-23	1800 to 0600 UTC North Amer. QSO party	160 to 10m SB
Jan 22-24	1900 to 0400 UTC ARRL VHF Sweepstakes	6m on up all modes
Jan 29-30	0600 to 1800 UTC REF (France) CW	160 to 10m
Jan 29-30	1300 to 1300 UTC UBA (Belgium) SSB	80 to 10m
Feb 5-6	0000 to 2359 UTC Vermont QSO party	160 to 10m all modes

## Pagers Available

A quantity of voice pagers is available to members of RACES/ARES at a small fraction of the original cost. The estimated total cost of the pager with crystals is \$35.00. This is a one-time charge and there is no monthly service fee. The pagers have been purchased and were re-crystalled, so they should be available soon. If you would like to be alerted to local emergency situations quickly, a pager fills the need ideally, and is a really good deal cost-wise. One of the objectives stated by the WCARC President, Larry Reitz, is to have all Wood County RACES/ARES participants equipped with pagers so that quick call ups can be made in time of emergency. For further information, please contact Larry, WA8CWD, at (419) 837-2202. ■

## WCARC

### Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Jan	4	N8QMV
Jan	11	AA8XS
Jan	18	WD8ICP
Jan	25	N1RB
Feb	1	N8QMV
Feb	8	AA8XS

## RadioHead: Builders, Operators and Communicators,

by John Hansen W2FS

reprinted from ARRL Web Extra

---continued from last month---

Note it's not just that these new folks weren't technically-oriented constructors of radio equipment. Often they weren't operators either. It wasn't a fascination with radio (or technology) that brought them to Amateur Radio, it was the ability to communicate with others at very low cost. Many Amateur Radio organizations, including the ARRL and Gordon West's Radio School, actively promoted Amateur Radio as a hobby for "communicators". Where building or operating radios was once the main focus of Amateur Radio, in the 1990s *communication* became the key element, not the technology. To communicators, it really didn't matter that radio was involved, they merely wanted a cheap, convenient way to communicate. At the time, this seemed fine. After all ham radio was a big hobby that could accommodate everyone.

But lately things have been changing again. People who want to make phone calls in their cars use cellular phones, not autopatches. People who want to send electronic mail across the world use the Internet, not packet, and it gets there in seconds, not days. If communication is your only goal (and you don't care a whit about the *means* of communication) Amateur Radio is almost always not the best choice. So the communicators are leaving the hobby as quickly as they came in. While many who showed up as communicators -

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## Hamfest Calendar

**Jan 15**      **Dial RC**      *9am to 4pm*  
Thesken Hall, Miami University-Middletown Br.,  
Middletown, OH. Contact Hank Greeb, N8XX,  
(513) 385-8888, n8xx@arrrl.net

**Jan 16**      **Sunday Creek ARF**      *8am to 2pm*  
Hocking College, Nelsonville, OH. Contact Russ  
Ellis, N8MWK, (740) 767-2226, scarf@hocking.edu

**Jan 16**      **Hazel Park ARC**  
Hazel Park, MI. (no more info). Contact Tom  
Krausnick, WC9F, tkrausnick@home.com

**Jan 30**      **Tusco ARC**      *8am to 1pm*  
Ohio National Guard Armory, 2800 N. Wooster  
Ave., Dover, OH. Contact Billy Harper, KB8CQG,  
(330) 484-4634, bharper@neo.rr.com

## HF Rig For Sale

Yaesu FT-101B w/ digital read-  
out accessory installed  
10 through 160 meters  
Astatic Silver Eagle D-104 mic  
Asking \$200 or best offer  
Contact Chuck WD8ICP  
352-0856

**Radiohead--cont.--**became interested in the technology and became builders or operators, most of the others are gone.

A lot has been written in the national Amateur press about this phenomenon, but I think that, for the most part, it has been misunderstood. *The Internet and cellular phones are not killing Amateur Radio; they are just causing the exodus of those who were only interested in communication, not technology.* Communicators were a very short-term proposition in Amateur Radio. There were very few of them before 1985, and there will be very few of them in the year 2000.

Historically an Amateur Radio license has been a license to experiment, a license to play, and a license to be amazed by new and wonderful things. The communicators never experimented, rarely played, and were immune to amazement. I can take \$10 worth of resistors, coils, capacitors, transistors, etc. and build a CW transmitter that can be heard on the other side of the Earth. The communicator looks at this and wonders why anyone would ever want to transmit a CW signal, inefficient as it is. The communicator reasons that he could take a \$10 telephone, plug it into a house jack and have a high-quality audio link to the other side of the Earth. ■

**beacons--cont--**a vertical, even a weak beacon signal may indicate a path with excellent propagation for stations using higher power and directive antennas. The table gives the minute and second within each hour of the start of the first transmission on each frequency. Each transmission is repeated every 3 minutes.

Slot	Call	14	18	21	24	28
1	4U1UN	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40
2	VE8AT	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50
3	W6WX	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00
4	KH6WO	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10
5	ZL6B	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20
6	VK6RBP	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30
7	JA2IGY	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40
8	RR9O	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50
9	VR2HK	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00
10	4S7B	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10
11	ZS6DN	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20
12	5Z4B	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30
13	4X6TU	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40
14	OH2B	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50
15	CS3B	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00
16	LU4AA	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10
17	OA4B	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20
18	YV5B	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30

Feb 5-6    *0000 to 2359 UTC*      160 to 2m  
New Hampshire QSO party    all modes

Feb 5-6    *1300 to 0700 UTC*      160 to 70cm  
Maine QSO party      all modes

Feb 5-6    *1700 to 0100 UTC (0500 to 1300 off)*  
160 to 10m Delaware QSO party    all modes

Feb 6      *0000 to 0400 UTC*      80 to 20m  
North American sprint      CW

Feb 6-7    *1600 to 0400 UTC*      80 to 10m  
Freeze your ---- off QRP      all modes

WOOD COUNTY ARC  
P.O.BOX 534  
BOWLING GREEN, OH  
43402





WOOD COUNTY  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

P.O. Box 534  
Bowling Green, OH  
43402



Regular-\$10===Family-\$15===Senior/Student-\$5  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF EXP. \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
CALL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Circle All That Apply:*

Active Bands: 160 80 75 40 30 20 17 15 12 10 6 2 220 440 higher

Modes: CW SSB PACKET RTTY FM DX MOBILE QRP SSTV ATV EME SAT

Interests: Traffic DX Contests Foxhunts Satellites Nets Antennas

Computers Emergency ARES/RACES Skywarn Classic Radios

Do You Own a Computer? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what operating system (check)?

DOS/Windows \_\_\_\_\_ MAC/OS \_\_\_\_\_ IBM/OS2 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to upgrade your license? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what class? \_\_\_\_\_

What kinds of meeting programs would you like to see? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of equipment would you like to see the Club purchase? \_\_\_\_\_

Other activities you would like to see the Club offer \_\_\_\_\_

General Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_